

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

RHODE ISLAND

Scott Duhamel
Secretary/Treasurer



BUILDING TRADES

March 18, 2021

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chairman
Committee on Finance
State of Rhode Island Senate
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H-596, S-224, S-374; Act authorizing specific municipalities to issue general obligation bonds for school construction

Dear Chairman Abney:

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council is comprised of sixteen (16) Local Trade Unions and approximately 10,000 members. On behalf of our officers and members, I write in **SUPPORT** of the above referred legislation for the reasons that follow:

In 2016 Jacobs and Cooperative Strategies conducted a statewide facility condition assessment and master plan of all municipal school facilities. This assessment identified more than \$3 billion in deficiencies in our municipalities' school facilities. Communities such as Providence and South Kingstown have taken the initiative to rectify their deficiencies and submitted the above referred to legislation.

The long-term benefits of this investment are apparent; safe, secure, and clean schools for the children of these communities to learn and receive a quality education. There are significant short-term benefits as well. These investments will generate significant work opportunities for local trades personnel and business opportunities for local businesses. Accordingly, our organization urges you to pass the above referred to bills for the foregoing reasons. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Sabitoni
President

cc: Committee Members
RI Building and Construction Trades Council

Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council

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